

no more illusions

a journal of solidarity & defense

Free of Charge

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COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE

July 31st Day of Action Against Racism

BY Detroit Solidarity & Defense

HAMTRAMCK, MI

Solidarity & Defense itself isn't going to defend communities. Our goal is to fight and organize with communities to be able to defend themselves, even if we are not a part of them. The most recent example is how S&D is approaching dealing with fascists and fascism in Hamtramck.

Hamtramck is the only majority Muslim city in the country. It is surrounded, bordered on all sides but one, by Detroit.

About 20,000 people live there, and it is a very working class community of brown, black, and white folks. Recently, alt-right, neo-nazi, and militia graffiti and stickers have been found all around Hamtramck.

There is a Proud Boy who lives in Hamtramck. There is talk of "white genocide" on right-wing online forums referring to the city, which once housed mostly white, Polish immigrants, and now is home to mostly Bangladeshi and Yemeni immigrants.

The changing demographics of the city are on the radars of the far-right as well. Last year after the Republican National Convention Richard Spencer had a private dinner in Hamtramck at a Polish Restaurant. This took place immediately

Additionally, earlier this year, Black students at Hamtramck High School had a dance they were planning to perform labeled a "ghetto dance" by school officials. The city also faces creeping gentrification, as students and "young professionals" are priced out of the downtown and midtown areas of Detroit

In response to this, members of Solidarity & Defense Detroit, some of whom live in Hamtramck but are not part of the Muslim community there, and some who stay in Detroit, planned an anti-racist block party in a park in Hamtramck on July 31.

We continually posted up in that park giving out lemonade and literature, and having political discussions with kids, teenagers, and parents. Even if we are not always directly part of their communities or social circles, by being real and honest with them we were able to have good discussions and build some actual relationships with people interested in linking up and doing work with us.

By relating our struggles and sharing what we know, we were able to work with and learn from people within the community who know first hand that



"It's not about defending a community by ourselves... We have to prove that we've all got each others backs. That an injury to one is an injury to all."

after a larger meetup of Michigan alt-right and Identity Evropa members, such as Kyle Bristow, in the city of Royal Oak, a suburb of Detroit.

Here is a quote from Identity Evropa's report on Hamtramck and Detroit: "There was a private dinner at a Polish restaurant in Hamtramck, the first town in America to go full kabob and the perfect place for an Alt-Right meetup.

The day after the conference we travelled to several areas around Detroit that were hit the hardest by the well documented slow motion racial replacement of European people with that of African Americans. It was truly a sight to behold, as we passed miles of burnt out building and abandoned factories with the foliage reclaiming the land.

It was surreal how a place with such endless possibilities for gentrification could remain untouched by developers, as the remaining occupants of the neighborhoods would make even the bravest souls wary of venturing into such place."

we're all under attack by fascists and by the state.

Since the block party, antifascist activists and members of the community have worked together to independently reject white supremacists in Hamtramck. Anti-cop and anti-fascist graffiti now goes up every day, from people we don't even know.

It's not about defending a community by ourselves. Solidarity is just as important as defense. We have to prove that we've all got each others backs, that an injury to one is an injury to all.

We are working to make Hamtramck a no-go zone for fascists and white supremacists, and to start growing revolutionary consciousness within the community, a consciousness that is anti-fascist, that is anti-capitalist, that is anti-patriarchal, and that is from the working class, in order to continue developing strong relationships and networks that can defend against fascist as well as state violence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Resist Richard Spencer at Michigan State University

Notorious white nationalist, racist, and violent hate-monger is in the middle of courtroom battle to try to speak at Michigan State University in the middle of the month of September. Connect with the Solidarity & Defense Facebook event to stay in the loop about updates to the court case as well as efforts made to fight against his presence in mid-Michigan: facebook.com/events/343441162747840/

Oppose the Immigration Police: Lansing Rapid Response training

Hosted by Lansing Solidarity and Defense

September 19th, 2017, 7:00pm

Foster Community Center

ICE activity is increasing around the country. We're building a rapid response network to support our immigrant neighbors and resist ICE. Join us for a training on intervening during ICE confrontations. We'll address making decisions that center the needs and wants of families, direct action tactics, risk and safety assessment and an overview of how rapid response fits into the larger picture of immigrant support in Lansing.

Please email lansingimmigrantdefense@gmail.com to register.

Book Talk with Mark Bray

Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook

October 10 at 7 PM - 9 PM

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
In a smart and gripping investigation, historian and former Occupy Wall Street organizer Mark Bray provides a detailed survey of the full history of anti-fascism from its origins to the present day — the first transnational history of postwar anti-fascism in English. Based on interviews with anti-fascists from around the world, Antifa details the tactics of the movement and the philosophy behind it, offering insight into the growing but little-understood resistance fighting back against fascism in all its guises.

FUCK THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HERE’S THE REAL RESISTANCE:



DEMONSTRATIONS, MARCHES, AND STREET BLOCKADES ERUPT NATIONALLY OVER TRUMP’S CANCELLATION OF DACA

On September 5th, Jeff Sessions, speaking on behalf of the Trump Administration, announced that it will be advising the Department of Homeland Security to begin an “orderly, lawful wind-down” of the DACA program. Since 2012 the program has allowed limited rights to young undocumented people under the age of 16, giving them the ability to attend school and get social security cards.

Following this announcement, people spontaneously took to the streets to demonstrate the widespread popular support for our migrant friends and neighbors. From Washington D.C. to Denver, and everywhere in between, immigrants and fellow freedom fighters shut down intersections and faced off against the police. Eight people were arrested at an action in Kalamazoo.

ANN ARBOR RESTAURANT OWNER REFUSES TO LET IMMIGRATION POLICE IN

“The owners of Cafe Zola said they turned away two immigration agents who stopped at the Ann Arbor restaurant the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 9 to look for an unnamed person. Owner Alan Zakalik said two agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement walked into the restaurant at 112 W. Washington Street around 2 p.m. and asked about an individual, but did not divulge the name. Zakalik was not at the restaurant at the time, but said his wife, Hediye Batu, declined to let the agents walk through the kitchen and search for the individual in question.”

GRAND RAPIDS MAYOR’S SPEECH SHUT DOWN FOR UNION BUSTING

On Labour Day the Amalgamated Transit Union partnered with Socialist Alternative and representatives of Anti-Fascist and Student Activist groups to send Grand Rapids’ Mayor Bliss home from the annual bridge walk. The ATU has been in a contract struggle for two years, and still has no contract - Mayor Bliss is one of the board members refusing to bargain with the Union.

As Mayor Bliss began to speak, a large red banner reading “Labour Solidarity” was unfurled in front of her, and protesters with red and black flags formed a block in front of the walk as Union members chanted “Union busting is disgusting” and “Bliss go home”.

Not being able to talk over the protesters, the bridge walk began immediately. The group followed the mayor as the walk commenced on the sidewalk, and after the first bridge, stopped across the street ahead of the mayor, blocking her from continuing. Along the way, several protesters were assaulted by scabs as police did nothing. Eventually, another Union came and joined the block, and the mayor left.

FOOD NOT BOMBS DISTRIBUTES FREE FOOD IN LANSING

Lansing Food Not Bombs is part of an international movement that reclaims food before it goes to waste and gives it away for free as an active protest against violence. The Lansing chapter is just a few months old, and already is distributing food on a weekly basis! If you want to get involved or want to get some free food, you can find Lansing Food Not Bombs on Facebook or you can email them at lansingfnb@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OPPOSES KKK ATTACKS IN METRO-FLINT

On Friday, August 18th, the community in Burton, Michigan organized a rally in solidarity with the anti-fascist fighters in Charlottesville as well as to protest against the repeated KKK attacks on a Black family that has lived in Burton for 13 years. This family has been attacked by the KKK three times in the past five months.

The most recent attack was late July, when kkk’ers firebombed the family’s home. The rally on the 18th was large and diverse and showed that the community in greater Flint is ready to fight back against these acts of racist violence.

For more info: opposeklanattacksinburtonmichigan.wordpress.com

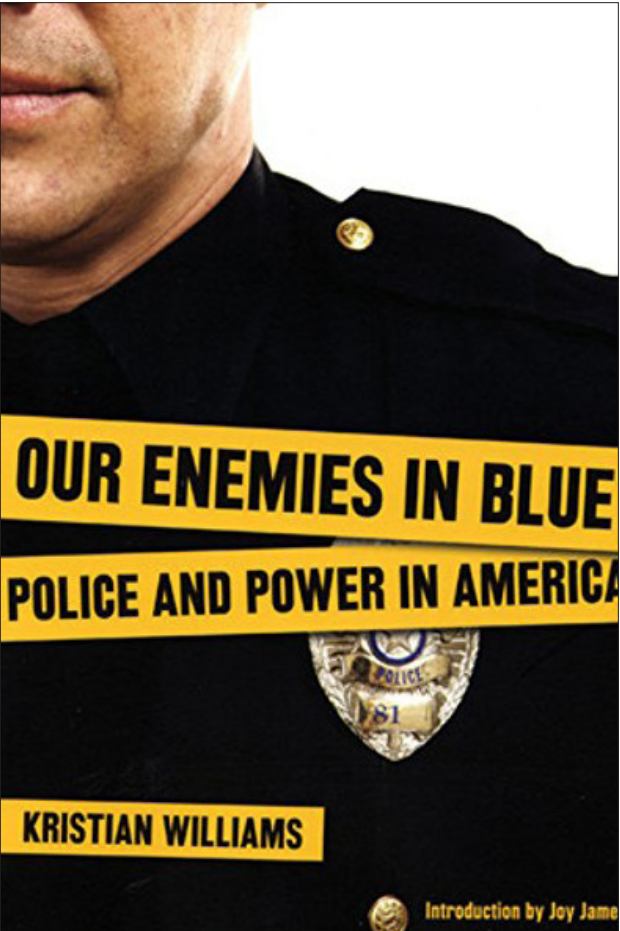
CROWD TAKES DIRECT ACTION IN DURHAM, NC: PULLS DOWN CONFEDERATE STATUE

The massive white nationalist protest in Charlottesville, Virginia supposedly about a statue of Robert E. Lee, famous racist and pro-slavery soldier, was given the go-ahead by the city council. Realizing the futility of the alleged “democratic” process, a huge crowd in Durham, North Carolina took matters into their own hands. They gathered next to a monument to the Confederacy and pulled down the statue themselves. When arrests followed this actions, many supporters turned themselves in as accomplices to the crime in order to clog the court system and display solidarity with the accused.



OUR ENEMIES IN BLUE: POLICE AND POWER IN AMERICA

By Brandon from Lansing Solidarity & Defense



According to the Washington Post, the list of police murders is on its way to reach 1,000 by 2018. Despite this frightening figure, author Kristian Williams points out that the abolition of police is viewed as a sacrilegious. This power-worship makes asking critical questions of modern policing even more important: Why does the institution of police exist? How did modern policing originate? What is its role in society today? Who does it benefit? Who does it harm?

Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America answers these questions through extensive research examining police histories, literature and reports, news stories, historical texts and statistics.

“Organized police forces only emerged when traditional, informal or community-maintained means of social control broke down (emphasis added).”

The breakdown of community-maintained social order in the USA is a direct result of settler colonialism, genocide (of the indigenous population), the enslavement of a group of people (Africans and the indigenous), the criminalization of entire populations (people of color, the poor, LGBTQ individuals, and leftists), and vast income inequalities (capitalism).

It is this context of violence, oppression, and inequality that frames the rise of modern policing in the US. At first watchmen, constables, and sheriffs were social roles brought over from Europe.

Soon, however, the need to repress slave revolts in the South created a need for a more structured presence: City Guards. These groups were armed and salaried patrols

that oppressed slave communities as industrialization changed the pre-Civil War South.

In the North, City Guards became police units that were employed by corrupt political machines to act as anti-worker thugs. Industrialism created a dominant capitalist class that used police to enforce their values on the poor and working classes.

To adapt to social changes in the US and increase police power, police 1) bureaucratized, 2) organized and 3) pushed for professionalization.

By becoming a bureaucracy, the police departments centralized decision making within their own ranks. Police unions, associations, departments, and the Department of Justice including the Attorney General, all promote police power while shielding individual officers from wrongdoing.

The author does good work noting police unions are not working class organizations but rather representatives of cops and the status quo. Professionalization attempted to draw police recruit from the ranks of those invested in the ideology of the ruling order. Williams is clear on this point: as “police power is increased...democracy suffers a proportional loss.”

The middle chapters reveal the white supremacy inherent in the institution, the police as “natural enemies of the working class,” and the “strategy of permanent repression” against organized dissent. The author analyzes racial profiling realities and statistics, traces the role of cops in undermining and attacking labor activity, and gives accounts of police repression.

A disproportionate amount of repression is directed towards the political left when it’s the political right which has been responsible for the most violent crimes in the United States, but as usual: “Cops and Klan, Hand in Hand.”

Williams’ examination of the militarization of police and the idea of ‘community policing’ offers the greatest insight for contemporary discussions of police. The author likens the contemporary form of policing in America with that of a counterinsurgency operation in an occupied territory.

Williams describes how the police transformed into a force that resembles military organizations (think SWAT teams and internal organization) while at the same time pursuing public relations in order to legitimize the police in the eyes of local communities as a classic form of counterinsurgency (winning the hearts and minds of the occupied population).

Police rhetoric and training has made their role in society so similar to that of a colonial occupation army that U.S. Marines were trained in Los Angeles alongside the police before they were deployed to Afghanistan.

Simultaneously, police work to build relationships with communities and leaders to legitimize themselves and enroll the help of the populace to perform minor policing functions.

The military structures and community outreach programs are a strategy of controlling populations on multiple fronts.

We live in a policed society. The amount of policing done in an area directly reflects the demographics. This is a calculated approach to social control with roots all the way back to intimidating slaves in the South. Crime statistics are entirely based off police deployment – more police mean more arrests.

This solidifies the cycle of repression in areas with marginalized populations. When activists and social organizations begin to challenge the status quo, they are monitored and criminalized by the police and media.

At the same time, the police are taking actions to insulate themselves from retribution by passing legislation (Blue Lives Matters Bills) which makes crimes against police a hate crime. Police increase power and prestige in a society that unilaterally gives them the authorized use of force which they employ with deadly zeal.

Modern police forces came from a breakdown in community-maintained measures of social control. What this means is that cops could become obsolete when measures of community-maintained order reappear. This is not easy, safe, or quick work. Police and people who hold wealth and power do not want social change, especially the revolutionary kind of change that makes police obsolete. Kristian Williams makes the point that police appeal to local communities **because local communities are a source of power.**

This is the path towards another world: by strengthening and equalizing our communities while expressing solidarity with localities all over the world, will we be able restructure society in a way to make police obsolete. To invoke George Orwell, we can’t make the world perfect but we can make it better than the police state we have now.

Ask your local library to order *Our Enemies in Blue* by Kristian Williams. This book is only as timeless as long as police exist!





(ALMOST) EVERYONE IS ANTIFA

By Steve from Solidarity & Defense Lansing

In the aftermath of the Charlottesville Unite the Right fascist rally and murder of Heather Heyer everyone has been talking about antifa. The right continues to yammer on that anti-fascists are the source of all the violence. Even liberals who say they want to resist Trump are parroting his notion that the violence is coming from “both sides.” There has been so much talk demonizing antifascists in the last few weeks, you’d think we were the ones that drove a car murderously into a crowd of protesters in Charlottesville. I don’t think this is by accident. The article that follows is an attempt to clarify some things about antifa/ antifascists.

Antifa is short for anti-fascists, meaning all those who oppose fascism. It’s not a group or an organization. It is literally almost everyone of earth. It includes anarchists, clergy, revolutionaries, school teachers, civil rights advocates, nurses, pretty much anybody you can think of. There has been a strong push led by the fascists to demonize antifa as a shadowy terrorist group with an ideology of chaos and violence. **But the reality is that antifascism has broad support and is necessary to defend our communities from attack.**

Most antifascists believe we should not allow fascists to organize because they want to commit genocide in our communities. We say “no platform for fascists”, which means we will not allow fascists to speak unopposed. When they are allowed to grow they become more offensively violent, as we saw in Charlottesville during the torch-lit march. When they outnumbered anti-racists, all of a sudden the police, who normally protect the fascists, were nowhere to be seen. This enabled the fascists to brutally attack the small group of antifascist college protesters. These racist attacks even occur in our own backyard. This summer a Latino man was attacked on the Southside of Lansing by racists who pinned a note on the man telling him to “go back to Mexico”.

This happened in the context of several months of Trump supporter-led anti-immigrant organizing and propaganda.

Most antifascists also oppose relying on the cops and courts to defend us from the kkkklan and nazis. We do not call on the police to protect us or to ban the fascists. Most in the antifascist movement believe only the people organized at the grassroots can defend our communities from the fascists.

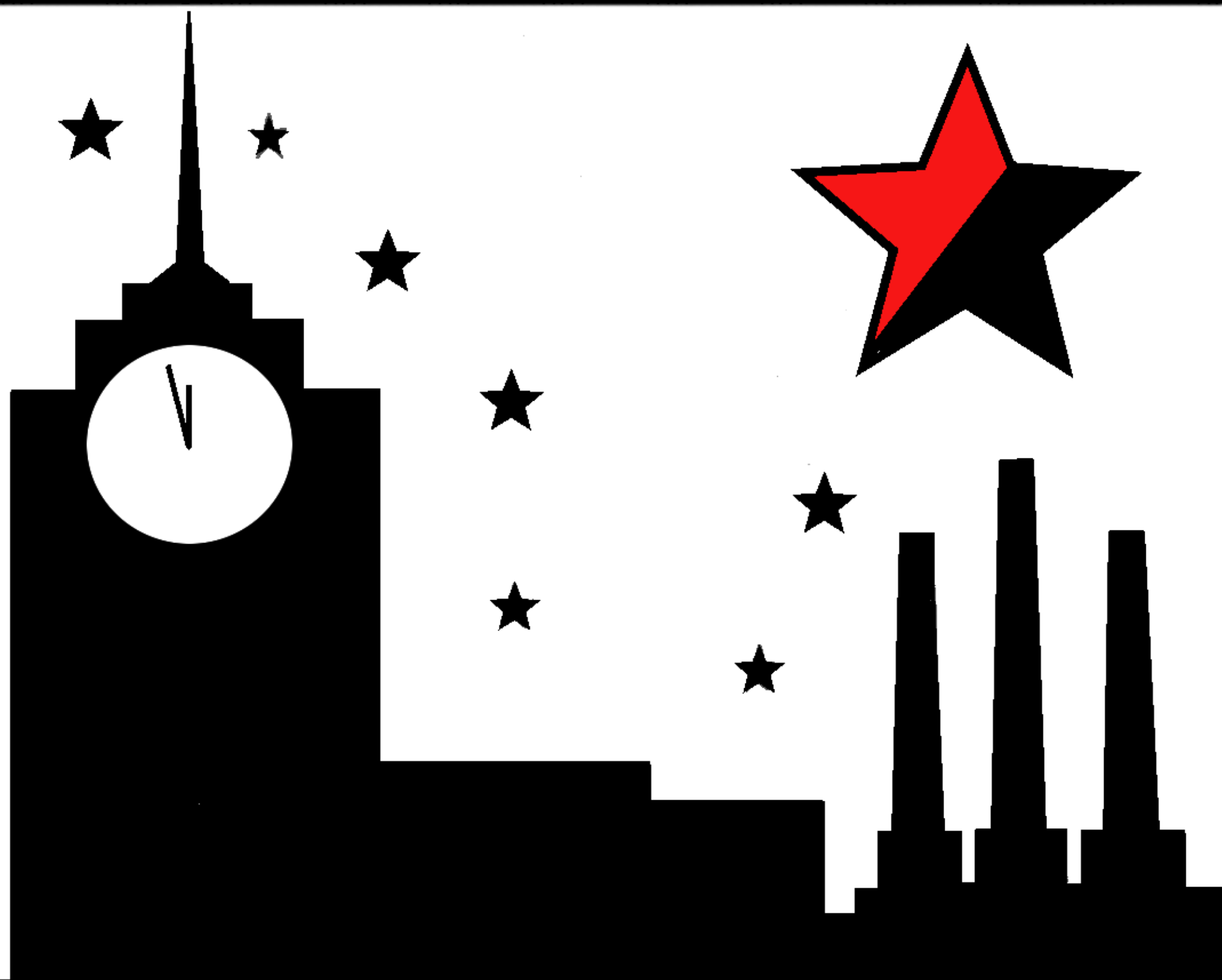
Trump has done a lot to normalize and embolden racists to come out of the woodwork. Racists are a big part of the coalition that got him elected. All of this has combined to create a surge in racist organizing, incidents, and attacks. But antifa aren’t having it! We are fighting to build an anti-fascist movement which is rooted in the idea of community solidarity and defense. This means getting to know our neighbors, not allowing fascists to attack our friends and families, and building an alternative to relying on the state for our protection.

CONTACT

EMAIL US DIRECTLY AT
nomoreillusionslansing@gmail.com
with questions, concerns, or to submit your own article!



SOLIDARITY



DEFENSE

Now Is the Time for Solidarity & Defense

We are a network of people committed to providing solidarity and defense to communities under attack. We organize along directly democratic and participatory lines and are independent of all political parties and their affiliated groups.

We believe in and support people young and old; queer and gender non-conforming; immigrants and refugees; working people, students, the poor; indignados; the ungovernable and those seeking a new society. We remember Trayvon Martin. We fight alongside the Standing Rock Water Protectors and the people of Flint who struggle against the poisoning of our water. We stand with the New York Transit Workers Alliance and the masses at airports demanding to be reunited with their families. When we work together to realize a world where we can live and love as equals, we practice solidarity.

We are Solidarity & Defense Michigan and in order to live and love, we must fight!

Where Do We Begin?

We have already begun. We are currently witnessing a mass groundswell of people refusing to remain silent. We know that no one is coming to save us. It is ourselves alone, the mass of people under attack, that will turn the tide. Networks and defense committees are being organized for the social struggle ahead: to build solidarity with and between all those communities under attack and to engage in active and direct defense. We seek to expand and continue this work.

How Do We Begin?

Solidarity is our best defense.
We prioritize the following areas of action & methods:

AREAS OF ACTION

ANTI-RACIST AND ANTI-FASCIST ACTION.
We support united action against fascist threats

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE DEFENSE.
We participate in campaigns against the government’s deportation squads.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, QUEER, TRANS, & GENDER
NON-CONFORMING LIBERATION
To live and love, we must fight.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM.
We support people’s right to choose and any active resistance to defend that choice.

SOLIDARITY WITH AND DEFENSE OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE AND ASSAULT.
We rely on personal networks to provide support to victims of abuse.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.
We support and participate in teachers, students and parents organizing in the school systems.

EVICTIION DEFENSE.
Housing is a matter of justice. We intend to keep people in their homes

AGAINST POLICE TERROR, PRISONS AND REPRESSION.
We support the movements that confront police terror. We seek a society without prisons and the (in)justice system. We are opposed to all forms of State violence and repression.

METHODS

1. STATEWIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK.
S & D is organizing to develop a system of rapid alert in the event of fascist organizing, racist, homophobic, sexist attacks in schools, immigration raids, etc. with the purpose of mobilizing as many people as we can to assist each other in responding to these emergencies.
2. POPULAR EDUCATION.
S & D Michigan organizes to help empower people to take control of their own learning and use education as a tool in the fight for social change.
3. CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION.
We believe it is important to develop a database of resources, organizations, movements, and so on, with the purpose of expanding the network and being able to respond more effectively.